

The Washington Post A24  
 The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Washington Times \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
 USA Today \_\_\_\_\_  
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## *No to Sen. Byrd's CIA Move*

**A** HOUSE-Senate conference committee can do the right thing by respecting an overwhelming House vote specifically rejecting an ill-conceived CIA job-relocation scheme being pushed by Sen. Robert C. Byrd. The plan was drawn up in closed-door negotiations between Sen. Byrd, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who was seeking jobs for West Virginia, and Sen. John Warner, who settled for relocating another 2,700 or so agency employees to Prince William County. They thought they could pull off this heist by short-circuiting normal procedures.

The CIA hired a real estate consultant last November for a consolidation and relocation of CIA jobs. After several hundred sites were examined, the list was narrowed to 65—none in West Virginia. But when that list was whittled to four, the CIA directed that West Virginia be added. The consultant's evaluation of the finalists recommended against West Virginia, but somehow West Virginia still prevailed. The language authorizing the move turned up in the classified portion of 1992 intelligence legislation. There was no consultation with most members of Congress, the White House, the General Services

Administration or the Office of Management and Budget.

Fortunately, House members objected. Rep. Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania, senior Republican on the Intelligence Committee, characterized the proposal as "one of the best covert operations I've ever seen the CIA operate." Northern Virginia's Frank Wolf said the CIA plan "violated all procurement integrity." Intelligence Committee Chairman Dave McCurdy (D-Okla.) joined in support of a motion by Rep. Shuster, and the House voted 388 to 32 to instruct its conferees to hold firm in refusing to proceed with the CIA move unless normal procedures are followed.

By recognizing the strong feeling in the House, Senate Intelligence Chairman David L. Boren (D-Okla.) would allow a fair, open congressional process to work. But the House's concerns are more than procedural. Besides bids and open reviews, there is the human matter of the impact such moves have on families whose members are deeply involved in their communities. To cut corners would be to confirm some of the worst complaints of voters around the country about the way Congress serves itself behind closed doors.